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ABSTRACT

The report describes a project designed to evaluate the effectiveness of career awareness instruction in the Bethel District (Oregon) elementary schools' World of Work program. Teachers from each grade level developed formats for the evaluation instruments which were administered to students, with the results in turn being evaluated by an evaluation committee and by outside evaluators. Analysis of the test results indicated that the instruments at some grade levels were too easy, and that questions at the fifth and sixth grade level were too social studies oriented and hence needed extensive revision. The study concluded that due to changes in curriculum it would be necessary to revise the Bethel World of Work guide. Demographic information for the study and a summary of its costs appear at the end of the report. (JR)

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Final Report

of

Development of Evaluation Instruments to Determine Effectiveness of World of Work Program

An Applied Research Project

in

Career Education

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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A Project Funded by
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942 Lancaster Drive N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97310

June 14, 1973

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Final Report

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"Development of Evaluation Instruments to Determine"
Effectiveness of "World of Work Program

An Applied Research Project

in

Career Education

Project Duration June, 1972 to July 1, 1972

Conducted By

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A B S T R A C T

TITLE: Development of Evaluation Instrument to Determine Effectiveness of "World of Work" Program

INSTITUTION: Bethel School District #52

PROJECT DIRECTOR: Earle E. Vossen
Address: 1801 Echo Hollow Road, Eugene, Oregon 97402
Phone: 689-0731

PROJECT DURATION: 14 June, 1972 - 1 July, 1972.

Costs			
Federal	Local	Other	Total
$1,500.	$612.32		$2,112.32

NUMBER OF STUDENTS AFFECTED: 1825 NUMBER OF STAFF INVOLVED: 76.

EDUCATIONAL SETTING

School District #52 has 1,825 elementary students in grades 1 - 6 and is located N.W. of Eugene with about half of the district within the city limits of Eugene. The main industries are lumber processing, railroad car switching and repair; warehousing, and farming. Five elementary schools feed into two junior highs.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the project was to develop evaluation instruments for each grade level which would determine the effectiveness of the career awareness instruction offered Bethel elementary students through the use of the "World of Work" program.

PROCEDURES AND OUTCOMES

The project involved teachers from each grade level developing a format for the evaluation instruments, and devising questions which would satisfactorily determine the effectiveness of the "World of Work" program to all attain the behaviorial objectives established for each grade level.

Activities: Two 3-hour planning sessions to establish format held during May 1972. Three days developing and writing pilot test forms during June 1972. Preliminary test form administered to students, and results compiled in September 1972. Results of testing and comments of teachers administering the tests studied by the committee.

Outcomes: Tests were too easy for some grade levels, too difficult for the other grades. Preliminary work on revising the tests was completed when decision was reached by the district to adopt a new Social Studies program. Revision of the "World of Work" guide will be necessary before additional work on the evaluation is continued.

REPORT OUTLINE

I. BACKGROUND AND EDUCATIONAL SETTING

Bethel School District is a consolidated system consisting of five elementary, two junior highs (grades 7 - 9), and Willamette High School. Total student enrollment for the district is 3385 students. About half of the school district is within the Eugene city limits, and the other half is spread out with,railroad yards, farm lands, industry (mainly lumber products), and suburban residential areas intermingled. A high percent of the patrons are middle class and have employment outside the district.

The school district supports a innovative and progressive program of education. It has been very sensitive to the needs of the handicapped, the non-college as well as college bound students.

A program of career awareness was initiated in the elementary grades about five years ago. After two years it was decided that it should be revised with an emphasis on establishing behaviorial objectives for each grade level 1 - 12 under the title of "World of Work" guide for grades 1 - 12. The program was fully implemented during the 1972-73 school year at all grade levels: grades 1-6 Career Awareness, grades 7 - 9 Exploration, and 10-12th Enrichment and Decision Making.

Any educational program, especially a new one being fully implemented at all grade levels, by a group of teachers with a great variety of training and experience backgrounds needs to be observed very carefully, and to have a well developed plan for measuring how successful it is in achieving its goals. With these needs in mind it was decided that some form of evaluation instruments should be developed, tested, and the results carefully studied to determine if any changes are needed.

II. PROCEDURES

A committee of seven teachers, the Coordinator of Career Education, and Larry Veal, consultant, held two planning meetings during May 1972 to develop a basic philosophy, establish a format and some guidelines. Scheduling the planning sessions while the teaching staffs were still available made it possible for the committee to solicit suggestions from fellow teachers. The committee provided representation of all grades, one through six.

By the time the committee met in June they were well fortified with ideas and quickly set upon the task of producing a set evaluation instruments in three days that could be pilot tested in September 1972.

During inservice prior to school opening, training sessions were held at each grade school to impress upon the teachers the importance of them following the same exact steps in administering the tests and accumulating the additional information.

The evaluation instruments were administered and the results compiled by the end of October. Teachers were asked to keep a record on the time necessary for administration of each test, and any words included in the instructions, or the test which the students indicated they did not understand.

The Committee met in February 1973 to discuss the findings, and decide what changes would be necessary.

III. RESULTS OF PROJECT

The time necessary to administer the tests ranged from 13 - 19 minutes which indicated that they were not too long even though the teacher read the instructions, each question, and the choice of answers. The questions were read so as to eliminate the reading ability factor as much as possible.

Initially, there was considerable concern over the lengthy list of words that students indicated they did not know. After considering that it was actually administered as a pre-test it was decided although some changes in vocabulary should be made, that it might be better to wait until the test was given as a post-test.

Analysis of the test results indicated that the instruments at some grade levels are too easy, and fail to give a true measure of the better students knowledge of careers!

Questions at the 5th and 6th grade level are too social studies oriented, and there is a need for extensive revision. More emphasis should be placed on careers, tools, and services and less on products.

Copies of outside evaluations by John Davies and Virginia Jeffersen are attached. They strongly reinforce the findings of the Committee, and will be incorporated in the revision of the instruments.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The fact that a new social studies adoptions for the elementary schools will be adopted for introduction in the fall of 1973-74 school year means that the Bethel "World of Work" guide will have to be revised if the social studies program is to serve as the vehicle for the career awareness program.

The Holt, Rhinehart Program has been adopted for the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades, and a decision has been postponed on what whill be selected for the first three grades. Examination of the adoptions for the 4-6th grades clearly indicate that extensive revision of the guide and the evaluation instruments will be necessary, and will be initiated during the 1973-74 school year. Finalization would be completed during the summer of 1974.

The experience gained by the committee, in the production of the guide and the evaluation instruments was very valuable. It will be of considerable value during the revision of the materials.

V. SUMMARY

The results and the experience obtained in developing and pilot testing have provided excellent background information and knowledge to the committee, and should make their task of revising the program, and the testing instruments an easy task.

The ability to devise a method of testing 1st grade non-readers has greatly increased the acceptancy by all teachers of the evaluation instruments. The initial reaction was a defensive one, but after administering the tests, and seeing the results it will be an easier task to gain their cooperation while developing the revised forms.

VI. DEMOGRAPHIC AND STATISTICAL INFORMATION

a. Number of schools involved 5 .

b. Total numbers of students enrolled in project schools 1825 .

c. Total number of students directly served by the project 1825 .

d. Number of staff directly involved in or served by the project

Professional/certified 76 .

Classified 2 .

e. Estimated parents involved 0 .

f. Estimated number of community persons and resource people involved 0 .

g. Estimated number of visitors to the project 0 .

h. Number of presentations on the project presented

In-district 6 .

Out-of-district 1 .

i. Total number of guides, handbooks, materials developed 6 sets of tests

Tests - 500 per grade level 1 - 6

Instruction sheets for administering tests 6 sets.

Records -- Sheets 125 copies.

Answer Sheets 125 copies

VII. SUMMARY OF COSTS

A. Source of Funds	State/Federal	$1,500.00
	Local	612.00
	Total	$2,112.00

B. Breakdown of Costs	State/Federal	Local	Total
1. Administration			
2. Staff Development			
Workshop	$1,500.	156.00	1,656.00
Released Time			
Other			
Total			
3. Supplies and Materials		230.00	230.00
4. Travel, per diem			
5. Consultants			
6. Evaluation			
7. Other Costs		226.00	226.00
Total	$1,500.00	$612.00	$2,112.00